1.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a first component;

a bus coupled ~~to~~ with the first component, the bus to transmit packets of data, wherein the packets of data having special cycles embodying control information; and

a second component coupled ~~to~~ with the bus, ~~messages passed between the first component and the second component through packets transmitted on the bus.~~ the second component to receive the packets of data from the first component via the bus.

2.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~wherein: the packets of data may include either data cycles or special cycles, the special cycles encoding messages.~~ wherein the control information to control the performance of the first component and the second component.

3.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, ~~wherein: the second component may receive a message encoded in a special cycle from the first component and transfer that message~~ the second component transmit the packets of data to a third component, the third component coupled ~~to~~ with the second component.

4.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, ~~wherein:~~ wherein the third component ~~acts upon the message.~~ to perform according to the control information.

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 3, ~~wherein:~~ wherein the third component ~~passes the message~~ to transmit the packets of data to a fourth component, the fourth component coupled ~~to~~ with the third component.

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, ~~wherein:~~ wherein the second component ~~receives a message from the first component and acts upon the message.~~ perform according to the control information.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, ~~wherein:~~ wherein ~~the second component acts upon the message by asserting a signal.~~ performing comprises asserting a signal.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, ~~wherein:~~ wherein ~~the second component acts upon the message~~ performing comprises changing behavior of the second component.

9. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~of virtualizing signals~~ comprising:

    receiving a signal ~~in~~ at a first component;

    passing ~~a~~ packets of data having a first message from the first component ~~through~~ via a

    bus coupled with the first component, the ~~message encoding~~ packets of data

    having special cycles embodying control information relevant to the signal; and

    receiving the first message ~~in~~ at a second component ~~through~~ via the bus.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, ~~wherein:~~ wherein the ~~signal is~~ packets of data comprise a second message~~, the signal received by the first component from a third component.~~

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further ~~comprising:~~ comprising passing the first message from the second component ~~through a second bus~~ to ~~a~~ the third component.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further ~~comprising:~~ comprising <u>acting on</u> ~~the first message, the acting performed by~~ the second component <u>performing according to</u> <u>the control information</u> ~~in response to receiving~~ <u>relating to</u> the first message.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, ~~wherein:~~ <u>wherein</u> ~~the acting~~ <u>performing</u> comprises <u>at least one of the following:</u> asserting a signal~~.~~ <u>and changing behavior.</u>

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A method, ~~of virtualizing signals in a system including a hub~~ ~~interface~~ comprising:

   receiving a first signal in a first hub <u>of a hub interface</u>;

   passing a message <u>in response to the first signal</u> from the first hub ~~through a first~~ <u>via the</u> hub interface, the message ~~corresponding to the first signal~~ <u>having control</u> <u>information</u>; and

   receiving the message ~~through~~ <u>from</u> the first hub ~~interface in~~ <u>at</u> a second hub.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further ~~comprising: acting on the~~ ~~message, the acting performed by the second hub responsive to the receiving the~~ ~~message.~~ <u>comprising controlling performance of the first hub and the second hub</u> <u>according to the control information.</u>

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

   determining if the message is intended for the second hub;

   ~~acting on~~ <u>performing according to</u> the message if ~~the determining indicates~~ the message is intended for the second hub; and

~~passing~~ <u>transmitting</u> the message ~~through~~ <u>to</u> a ~~second hub interface~~ <u>third hub</u> if ~~the~~

~~determining indicates~~ the message is not intended for the second hub.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20<u>,</u> further ~~comprising:~~ <u>comprising</u> receiving

the message ~~in a~~ <u>at the</u> third hub through the ~~second~~ hub interface.

22. (Currently Amended) A system<u>,</u> ~~using virtualized signals on a hub interface~~ comprising:

~~means for receiving~~ <u>a first hub coupled with a first hub interface to receive</u> a first signal

~~in a first hub~~;

~~means for passing~~ <u>the first hub to transmit</u> a message ~~from the first hub through a~~ <u>via the</u>

first hub interface, the message <u>having control information</u> corresponding to the

first signal~~, the first hub coupled to the first hub interface~~; and

~~means for receiving the message~~ <u>a second hub to receive the message from the first hub</u>

<u>via</u> ~~through~~ the first hub interface ~~in a second hub~~, the second hub coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u>

the first hub interface.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22<u>,</u> further comprising: means for acting on

the message, the means for acting associated with the second hub and operating

responsive to the means for receiving the message. <u>wherein the control information to</u>

<u>control performance of the first hub and the second hub.</u>

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22<u>,</u> further ~~comprising:~~ <u>comprising</u>

~~means for determining if the message is intended for the second hub;~~

~~means for acting on the message if the means for determining indicates the message is~~

~~intended for the second hub;~~

~~means for passing the message through a second hub interface if the means for~~

~~determining indicates the message is not intended for the second hub, the second~~

~~hub interface coupled to the second hub; and~~

~~means for receiving the message in~~ a third hub <u>to receive the message from the second</u>

<u>hub via</u> ~~through the~~ <u>a</u> second hub interface <u>coupled with the second hub and the</u>

<u>third hub</u>, ~~the third hub coupled to the second hub interface.~~ <u>the message having</u>

<u>the control information to control the second hub and the third hub.</u>

25.   (Currently Amended) A chipset<u>,</u> comprising:

a memory control hub ~~capable of being~~ coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u> a processor and ~~capable of being~~

~~coupled to~~ <u>with</u> a memory;

a bus coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u> the memory control hub, the bus ~~implemented~~ to transmit packets

of data; and

an input-output hub coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u> the bus~~, the input-output hub capable of being~~

~~coupled to~~ <u>and with</u> an input-output device, the chipset ~~capable of passing~~ <u>to pass</u>

messages between the memory control hub and the input-output hub ~~through~~ <u>by</u>

<u>transmitting the</u> packets <u>of data</u> ~~transmitted~~ on the bus <u>via a hub interface</u>, the

messages including <u>control</u> information ~~about~~ <u>regarding</u> signals received from ~~one~~

~~or more of~~ <u>and to control at least one of the following:</u> the processor, the memory,

and the input-output device.

26.   (Currently Amended) A system<u>,</u> comprising:

a processor;

a processor bus coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u> the processor;

a memory;

a memory control hub coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u> the processor bus and ~~coupled to~~ <u>with</u> the

memory;

a bus coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u> the memory control hub, the bus ~~implemented to~~ transmit packets

of data;

an input-output device; and

an input-output hub coupled ~~to~~ <u>with</u> the bus~~, the input-output hub coupled to~~ <u>and with</u> the

input-output device, ~~wherein messages may be passed between the memory~~

~~control hub and~~ the input-output hub <u>to pass messages to the memory control hub</u>

<u>by transmitting the</u> ~~through~~ packets <u>of data</u> ~~transmitted~~ on the bus <u>via a hub</u>

<u>interface</u>, the messages ~~including~~ <u>having control</u> information ~~about~~ <u>regarding</u>

signals received from ~~one or more of~~ <u>and to control one or more of the following:</u>

the processor, the memory, and the input-output device.

27.   (New) The system of claim 26, wherein the hub interface comprises a packet-based split-

transaction protocol.

28.   (New) The system of claim 26, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises

transmitting the packets of data using a packet-based split transaction protocol.

29.   (New) The system of clam 28, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises

transmitting a request packet to start a transaction and transmitting a completion packet to

terminate the transaction.

30.   (New) The chipset of claim 25, wherein the hub interface comprises a packet-based split-

transaction protocol.

31.   (New) The chipset of claim 25, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises

transmitting the packets of data using the packet-based split transaction protocol.

32.   (New) The chipset of clam 31, wherein transmitting the packets of data comprises

        transmitting a request packet to start a transaction and transmitting a completion packet to

        terminate the transaction.